

Serial No. 10/630,369
60130-1853; 02MRA0222

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An actuator assembly comprising:
an actuator drivingly connected to an output member by a transmission path, ~~and wherein~~ said actuator moves said output member about a pivot point in a first direction from a rest position to an actuated position and moves said output member in a second direction from said actuated position to said rest position; and
an energy storing member which provides a force, wherein movement of said output member by said actuator in said first direction ~~being is~~ assisted by said energy storing member, and movement of said output member by said actuator in said second direction stores energy in said energy storing member, and with said output member in said rest position, wherein said ~~energy storing member is positioned relative to said pivot point such that said force acts substantially through said pivot point when said output member is in said rest position.~~
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~latch-actuator~~ assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein a resultant torque is not generated on said output member because since ~~said force acts substantially through said pivot point when said output member is in said rest position a resultant torque is not generated on said output member.~~
3. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said energy storing member is positioned such that said force acts through said pivot point of said output member.
4. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said energy storing member acts on said output member.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly according to claim 4 wherein said output member includes an abutment, and said energy storage member acts on ~~an~~ said abutment of said output member.
6. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 5 wherein said abutment moves about said pivot point as said output member moves.

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7. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 5 wherein said abutment is a crank pin.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said energy storing member provides an assistance force as said output member moves in said first direction, and said assistance force progressively increasing-increases to a maximum and then decreasing-decreases from said maximum.

9. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said energy storing member is a helical spring.

10. (ORIGINAL) The actuator assembly according to claim 9 wherein said helical spring includes a circular portion including at least one coil and at least one arm which acts on said output member.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The actuator assembly according to claim 10 wherein said helical spring ~~has~~ includes a second arm which acts on a fixed abutment.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An actuator assembly comprising:

an actuator drivingly connected to an output member by a transmission path, ~~and wherein~~ said actuator moves said output member about a pivot point in a first direction from a rest position to an actuated position and moves said output member in a second direction from said actuated position to said rest position; and

an energy storing member which provides a force, wherein movement of said output member by said actuator in said first direction ~~being-is~~ assisted by said energy storing member over a substantial portion of said movement to said actuated position, and movement of said output member by said actuator in said second direction stores energy in said energy storing member over a substantial portion of said movement to said rest position, and with said output member in said rest condition, wherein said energy storing member is positioned relative to said pivot point, and said force acts to drive said output member in said second direction when said output member is in said rest position.

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13-19. (CANCELLED)

20. (NEW) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said output member includes an abutment, and said energy storing member contacts said abutment of said output member.

21. (NEW) The actuator assembly according to claim 1 wherein said actuator is operable to move a component of a latch assembly from a first position to a second position to change a state of the latch assembly.

22. (NEW) The actuator assembly according to claim 12 wherein said output member includes an abutment, and said energy storing member contacts said abutment of said output member.

23. (NEW) The actuator assembly according to claim 12 wherein said actuator is operable to move a component of a latch assembly from a first position to a second position to change a state of the latch assembly.